

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7690

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2017

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, SHUM, CI

SUBJ: VI OASGA: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

REF: STATE 57655

1. I SAW FINANCE MINISTER JORGE CAUAS AT OPENING OF OPIC SEMINAR MARCH 12. HE ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT OF PINOCHET'S MARCH 11 SPEECH (SEPTELS). I SAID IT SEEMED FIRM AND CONFIDENT ON ECONOMIC SIDE, AND PRETTY HARD IN ITS POLITICAL APPROACH INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS. I POINTED OUT THAT, AS CAUAS RECOGNIZED, GOC WOULD HAVE A PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH ITS HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE AS OASGA APPROACHED AND DURING THE ASSEMBLY. GOC MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER WHAT IT COULD DO TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM. I ADDED THAT I HOPED TO SEE PRESIDENT PINOCHET BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FROM SANTIAGO APRIL 1 AND THAT THIS WAS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MATTERS IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS. CAUAS TOOK THE POINT; SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA; AND WILL NO DOUBT INFORM THE PRESIDENT ACCORDINGLY. WE LEFT IT THAT I WOULD TRY TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT TEN DAYS OR TWO WEEKS FROM NOW.

2. RE POINTS MADE IN STATE 57655, I AGREE THAT WE MUST DISCARD POSSIBILITY OF ANYTHING INITIATED BY ORFILA. UNFORTUNATELY, I AM BOUND TO SAY THAT I CONSIDER ODDS
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MUCH LESS THAN EVEN THAT GOC WOULD AGREE TO ANY CORPORATE

PRESENCE OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN SANTIAGO BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE OASGA. BUT I THINK IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT PINOCHET WOULD ACCEPT A QUIET PRELIMINARY VISIT FROM ONE OR TWO MEMBERS OF IAHC, PERHAPS TO RECEIVE GOC VIEWS ON COMMISSION'S REPORT AS YOU SUGGEST, SO LONG AS THIS WERE DONE ON A LOW-KEY BASIS, AS INFORMALLY AS POSSIBLE. CAN THE IAHC ACT TO SEND ONE OR TWO MEMBERS TO CHILE, ONCE ITS PRESENT SESSION HAS BEEN TERMINATED?

3. IN MY JUDGMENT THE PROSPECTS FOR A VISIT OF THE KIND MENTIONED ABOVE WOULD BE INCREASED IF, IN MY CONVERSATION WITH PINOCHET OR OTHERWISE, I COULD INDICATE HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST IN THE MATTER. A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY WOULD BE HELPFUL. THRUST OF SUCH A LETTER MIGHT BE TO EFFECT THAT AS GOC KNOWS, WE AND OTHERS HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH HOLDING OAS IN SANTIAGO, IN CURRENT CONDITIONS; THAT VISIBLE PROGRESS IN SATISFYING FOREIGN PREOCCUPATION RE CHILE'S HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION COULD CONTRIBUTE MOST SIGNIFICANTLY TO A SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH BROAD HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE; AND THAT, WHILE CHILEANS MUST THEMSELVES DECIDE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO CREATE SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE, A PRIOR VISIT BY QUALIFIED INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS SUCH AS MEMBERS OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION COULD BE HELPFUL IN ENSURING FAIR PRESENTATION OF CHILE'S CASE.

4. WILL BE GLAD TO CONTRIBUTE AS REQUIRED TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THESE AND OTHER THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT.
POPPER

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